In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-25. (Previously canceled).

26. (Currently Amended) A floor covering made of an elastically deformable material, comprising an upper side; an underside; first projections regularly arranged on the upper side; second projections regularly arranged on the underside for supporting the floor covering on a floor, the first and second projections having no overlapping regions in a plane of the floor covering; and third projections provided on the underside, arranged between the second projections, and having, in an unstressed state of the floor covering, a height smaller than a height of the second projections, whereby the third projections provide for an additional support of the floor covering on the floor when a load applied to the floor covering exceeds a predetermined value, wherein the first projections are formed by superimposition of two basic geometric forms including a larger spherical segment and a smaller spherical segment mounted on the larger spherical segment.

27. (Previously added) A floor covering according to claim 26, wherein the first projections essentially have the shape of a spherical segment.

28. (Previously added) A floor covering according to claim 26, wherein at least one of the second and third projections have a shape of one of a flat square prism and a frustum.

29. (Previously added) A floor covering according to claim 26, wherein at least one of the second and third projections have a shape of one of spherical segment, flat truncated cone, and flat cylinder.

30. (Previously added) A floor covering according to claim 28, wherein the second projections have the shape of the one of a square prism and a frustum with rounded edges and rounded areas adjoining underside of the covering and extending to a plane of the floor covering, and the third projections have the shape of a spherical segment.

31. (Previously added) A floor covering according to claim 26, wherein a distance between opposite edges of each of the second projections correspond to at least a distance between adjacent second projections.

32. (Previously added) A floor covering according to claim 26, wherein a distance between opposite edges of each of the third projections is less than a distance between adjacent third projections.

33. (Previously added) A floor covering according to claim 32, wherein the distance between the opposite edges each of third projections is less than ¾ of the distance between the adjacent third projections.

34. (Previously added) A floor covering according to claim 26, wherein grid sizes of arrangements of the first and second projections essentially correspond, and a grid size of the third projections corresponds to the grid size of the arrangements of the first and second projections or a multiple thereof.

35. (Canceled).

36. (Previously added) A floor covering according to claim 26, wherein a height of the first projections is less than ⅓ of a largest dimension thereof in a covering plane and a height of at least one of a second and third projections is in a range of between ⅕ and ½ of a dimension thereof in a plane of the floor covering.